

City of Smith Center  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
August 25, 2025

**I. Call to Order**

Mayor Wiehl opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 25, 2025, at the Srader Building.

**Attendance**

Governing Body Members: Don Wick, Bryce Wiehl, Everett Mansholt, Tracy Kingsbury, and Chris Cole. Absent: Ty Wallgren.

Others: Jill Conaway, Jamie Marshall, Melissa Colby, Brett Decker, Kim Phelps, Kim Maudlin, Rick Hileman, Joshua Niles, and Scott Roth.

**II. Consent Agenda**

Following review, a motion was made by Wick, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve the meeting minutes; vouchers, and receipts. Motion carried.

**III. Department Reports/Committee & Board Reports**

a) Economic Development-Roth presented items from the advisory board meeting. Following review, a motion was made by Kingsbury, seconded by Wick, to approve a Residential Revitalization Grant of up to \$2,977 to Emma and Eddie Nortje, 517 E. Kansas Ave., if their submission to the Residential Beautification Lottery is not drawn. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Wick, seconded by Cole, to approve three Workforce Recruitment Grants to SunPorch; \$6,000 each for an RN and LPN and \$5,000 for a CAN. Motion carried.

Roth shared information on two new potential programs. Roth shared that the Commercial Workforce Grant would be intended to provide funds to businesses for recruitment and retention of new employees for hard-to-fill, key job positions. The grant would provide up to \$1,500 for a qualifying full-time position and up to \$500 for a qualifying part-time position. The Commercial Technology/Equipment Grant is intended to promote the advancement of technology or equipment that will allow businesses to pursue greater productivity or to offer new services. This grant would be up to \$2,000 in matching funds for a qualifying project such as for the purchase of new technology or equipment that can provide better efficiency for day-to-day operations; to offer new services; or to update equipment for advanced capabilities. Discussion included: Workforce Grant-add that the entire grant amount must be passed on to the employee through regular payroll.

Mayor Wiehl called for a recess of the regular council meeting, to be continued following the RNR and Budget Hearings.

At 6:15 p.m. Mayor Wiehl opened the Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing. Discussion was held on how the RNR is established, and the rate

proposed for 2026. A motion was made by Wick, seconded by Cole, to adopt Resolution 2025-6 to levy a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate. Motion carried.

The budget hearing commenced with the floor open for questions and comments. Following discussion, a motion was made by Kingsbury, seconded by Wick, to approve the 2026 budget as presented. Motion carried.

The council meeting resumed, continuing with Economic Development.

Following discussion on the proposed new grant options, a motion was made by Kingsbury, seconded by Wick, to approve the Workforce Grant with changes. Motion carried. A motion was made by Cole, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve the Commercial Technology/Equipment Grant. Motion carried.

Roth shared that the advisory board had decided that due to member conflicts with school sports on Thursday evenings, the monthly meeting will be moved to the first Wednesday following the second Monday of each month, at 5:30 p.m. Motion by Wick, seconded by Cole, to approve the monthly economic development meeting date and time change as presented. Motion carried.

Valerie Haskett will have completed her six-month probationary period at the beginning of September. A motion was made by Kingsbury, seconded by Wick, to approve moving Haskett up one step on the salary schedule, effective September 1<sup>st</sup>. Motion carried.

Wiehl presented a reimbursement for approval. A motion was made by Mansholt, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve a reimbursement of \$123.65 to Scott Roth for meals. Motion carried.

Roth stated that October 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for two businesses to have their loan payments up to date, per certified letters. Wiehl will meet with Roth on follow-up options.

- b) Police Department-Chief Marshall announced that the department has received a \$2,037 grant from the Inez L. Reed Charitable Foundation to purchase cameras. Upon receipt, the cameras were ordered. Marshall shared that a bid was received to outfit the new patrol vehicle, however, the bid came in high. He will be going through the items that the company included that are not necessary in these patrol vehicles; will obtain another bid/quote; and will be utilizing purchasing program options in order to save funds. Marshall also reported that the department will be participating in the CPR class the next day at the EMS building; and will also have his AED checked.
- c) Hileman-Has been working up a plan to get water to the golf course, explaining that there is a 4" line that can be tied in to and ran 1.5 miles down the ditch area (following an application with the State of Kansas).

He has talked with Municipal Supply about pricing on the supplies needed. By going this route, Hileman explained that the water will already be treated, will not have to wait on the wells to produce, and we could eliminate the use of chlorine at the golf course. The water would be metered and would be reduced from the 4" line to a 2". Hileman explained that the greens are not in good condition, due to the untreated water that is high in selenium. Wiehl asked about running a new line instead; Kingsbury replied that it would cost twice as much. Cole asked if it would have a negative impact on the town's water supply; Hileman replied that it would not. Hileman will meet with the golf course advisory board once he receives the materials quote.

#### **IV. Governing Body Reports**

- a) Wick-Reported on the recent recreation commission meeting. Following the report, a motion was made by Kingsbury, seconded by Wick, to accept a resignation from Avery Hawkins. Motion carried. A motion was made by Wick, seconded by Cole, to reappoint Tiffany Mansholt to the commission. Motion carried. (E. Mansholt abstained)  
Kingsbury reported to Wick that the showers and sinks are in at the new bathhouse.
- b) Mansholt-Reported that Maudlin had corresponded with him on work to beautify the small lot west of The Pioneer by utilizing it as a pocket park. Maudlin explained that the design would allow for seating, some shade, green space, and a general aesthetic appearance; and she is working with Jack Yenne and Bush Designs. It was the consensus of the council to move forward.

#### **V. Executive Session**

A motion was made by Kingsbury, seconded by Wick, to enter into an executive session for ten minutes, personnel exception matters, non-elect personnel. Motion carried. In session at 7:03 p.m. – out of session at 7:13 p.m.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Wick and seconded by Kingsbury. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.